What is claimed is:

1.   A method for managing supply chain information in a supply chain network, comprising:

5   establishing at least one configurable business rule, the configurable business rule including at least one event capable of being monitored;

executing the at least one business rule;

determining the occurrence of the at least one event following execution of the at least one configurable business rule; and

10   sending at least one alert in response to the determining step.

2.   The method according to claim 1, further including the step of retrieving selected information in response to the at least one alert, the selected information associated with the at least one alert.

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3.   The method according to claim 2, wherein the retrieving step includes presenting the at least one user receiving the at least one alert with a plurality of information types for selection.

20   4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the at least one user is one of a supplier, a buyer, and a supply chain network host.

5.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of information types includes a drill down menu.

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6.   The method according to claim 1, further including the step of generating a customized report based upon the determining step.

30   7.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the establishing step is performed by a supply chain network host.

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8.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one configurable business rule is a customized business rule including at least one associated parameter.

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9.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one configurable business rule is one of a set of pre-determined business rules having at least one associated parameter.

10   10.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one configurable business rule is one of:

an expected delivery disconnect business rule, an unplaced purchase order business rule, a late purchase order receipt business rule, a late sales order shipment business rule, a late trigger start business rule, a supply/demand disconnect

15   business rule, a baseline forecast disconnect business rule, a forecast time disconnect business rule, a lead-time disconnect business rule, a sales order change business rule, a top level demand disconnect business rule, a lead-time/delivery date disconnect business rule, and a bill of material disconnect business rule.

20   11.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one configurable business rule includes instructions for monitoring supply chain data.

12.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one configurable business rule includes supply chain partner information.

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13.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step includes interrogating at least one supply chain information database.

14.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one supply

30   chain information database is one of a remote database, a supply chain partner database, and a host database.

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15.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the at least one configurable business rule is carried out by at least one user of the supply chain network.

16.   The method according to claim 15, wherein the at least one user is one of a supplier, a buyer, and a supply chain network host.

17.   A system for monitoring supply chain information in a supply chain network comprising:

        at least one user interface for establishing at least one configurable business rule; and

        a host system server for executing the at least one configurable business rule received from the at least one user interface.

18.   The system according to claim 17, wherein the host system server determines the occurrence of at least one event associated with the at least one configurable business rule and sends at least one alert message to the at least one user interface in response to the occurrence of the at least one event.

19.   The system according to claim 17, wherein the user interface is one of a buyer interface, a supplier interface and a host interface.

20.   A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer program product adapted to effect the steps comprising:

        establishing at least one configurable business rule, the configurable business rule including at least one event capable of being monitored;

        executing the at least one business rule;

        determining the occurrence of the at least one event following execution of the at least one configurable business rule; and

sending at least one alert in response to the determining step.

21.   A business rule for matching purchasing information with sales information in a supply chain network, the business rule executing the steps of:

5   creating a placed purchase order set based upon a plurality of placed purchase orders;

creating a sales order set based upon a plurality of sales orders;

matching each placed purchase orders in the purchase order set with the corresponding sales orders in the sales order set;

10   generating an alert notification in response to the matching set;

determining whether a purchase delivery order date and a requested quantity ordered in the placed purchase orders matches a sales delivery order date and a requested quantity shipped in the sales orders; and

generating an alert notification in response to unmatched purchase

15   delivery order and sales delivery order dates and unmatched requested quantity ordered and requested quantity shipped information.

22.   A business rule for monitoring a variance between placed purchase orders and planned purchase orders in a supply chain network, the business rule

20   executing the steps of:

creating a placed purchase order set of placed purchase order;

creating a planned purchase order set of planned purchase orders;

matching each purchase order in the purchase order set with the corresponding planned purchase order in the planned purchase order set;

25   summing quantities ordered from related placed purchase orders in the placed purchase order set;

summing quantities ordered from related planned purchase orders in the planned purchase order set;

determining whether a difference between the summed quantities for

30   each related placed purchase orders and the corresponding summed quantities for each related planned purchase orders exceeds a maximum threshold level; and

generating an alert in response to the determining step.